

# Family Support

F a m i l y   S u p p o r t   O f f i c e

## LOCAL PEOPLE BRIGHTEN DEPLOYED HOLIDAYS

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Youngstown Air Reserve Station deployed personnel had their holidays brightened by several individuals and groups of people who sent holiday decorations, letters, cards, and treats.

Family Support was approached by families, a synagogue, a church, and civic entities who wanted to support our deployed personnel. Several of the deployed Airmen agreed to receive cards and decorations and were nearly overwhelmed with the generosity of packages coming in.

CMSgt Thomas Powner said it was like a "pyramid scheme" in that information about what

was needed and how to get it there kept spreading to people and so decorations and good cheer were plentiful.

The USO got into the act too through their toy program, insuring some young ones of deployed personnel had presents sent to them.

*Picture: A Night-time Scene in the Desert Thanks to YARS Community Support*



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We read is a website for parents to get free books and to encourage learning in children in all age groups
- We're moving around in Family Support! See what's up!
- How can you make a resolution for your marriage?

Our Airmen in the desert were not the only folks who needed some additional holiday cheer. With the challenges in the local community employment arena and winter heating bills, times can get pretty challenging.

Several people in the base community contacted Family Support about supporting families in need. Family Support had received some suggestions for Airmen who could use a hand.

And the generosity was overwhelming, from large bags per child from Toys R Us, to gift certificates for dinners and groceries, to holiday decorations.

The Toys for Tots supplies



## IN JANUARY, WE CELEBRATE:



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Book Blitz Month                            | Week                                      | Day                                      |
| • International Quality of Life Month         | • 21-27 Healthy Weight Week               | • 21st—National Hugging Day              |
| • National Get Organized Month                | • 20-21 Bald Eagle Appreciation Days      | • 22nd—Answer Your Cats Questions Day    |
| • National Mentoring Month                    | • 22-26 No Name Calling Week              | • 23rd—National Speak up and Succeed Day |
| • National Poverty in America Awareness Month | • 8th—National Clean Off Your Desk Day    | • 26th—Fun at Work Day                   |
| • 1—7 New Year's Resolutions Week             | • 10th—National Cut Your Energy Costs Day | • 27th—Holocaust Memorial Day            |
| • 7-13 Celebrate the Circus Week              | • 13th—Penguin Awareness Day              | • 29th—Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day      |
| • 14-22 National Skating                      | • 17th—Customer Service                   |  |

Be always at war  
with your vices,  
at peace with  
your neighbors,  
and let each new  
year find you a  
better man

Benjamin Franklin

## RESOLUTIONS

We all make resolutions for the New Year. This year I've decided to make New Year *promises*. Instead of looking at a resolution, which to me is a task or a challenge, I choose to look at the desired change as a promise to make life better for me and my loved ones.

One of Family Supports favorite organization is Smart Mar-

riages, which is designed to promote healthy, happy marriages. In a recent newsletter they suggested the following as a New Year's resolution or promise for those in committed relationships: *as a partner in the committed relationship, determine to do whatever it takes to improve your relation-*

## THE DIRECTORS CORNER

*ship with your partner. Channel your energy and creativity towards strengthening your relationship with the aim of making the family healthier and the children happier.*

Why not do this for all the

## OPERATION SCHOOL HOUSE



Major Larry Scheetz, currently serving in Iraq on his second deployment for this war, has asked his wife, Dawnle, their family and friends to help out in this project. The project, Operation: School Supplies, is collecting school supplies for the Iraqi children.

They would like to be able to send enough pencils, paper, erasers, rulers, crayons, notebooks etc., etc., to fill the

equivalent of an Air Force C-130 aircraft with the 25,000 pounds.

Volunteers under the leadership of Dawnle Scheetz and Joann Milani have been working tirelessly packaging these items and will soon determine any other needs. These are the items that our local Soldiers, who are currently deployed, have asked for on behalf of the Iraqi children

because they see their need for a good education and know the good it will accomplish.

For more information on our project or how and where you can make donations please contact: Dawnle via email: [TheScheetz@Gmail.Com](mailto:TheScheetz@Gmail.Com) or call (724-699-2485) you can contact Joann at [Sgt.Rocko@Newfield.Net](mailto:Sgt.Rocko@Newfield.Net) or (330) 307-5044.

## FREE BOOKS AND LEARNING FOR KIDS ONLINE

<http://www.weread.org> is an excellent website of games, reading, downloadable books and other fun for preschool through high school aged students.

The Family Support staff has checked out this page and thoroughly enjoyed it. We hope you do too!



## DEPLOYMENT TIPS: COMMUNICATION

Communication with your loved one during deployment is key to the success of everyone. To know that you are thinking of each other and in touch with the important news of each other's days helps the time go more smoothly, happily, and safely.

On the next page is the information for emergency communications using the American Red Cross.

Morale calls are available through the base during regu-

lar business as well. Contact the base operator or Family Support for help connecting to your deployed military member. You will need the DSN (Defense Switch Network) phone number to reach the member at and know a good time to call where they can talk. Morale calls are limited to 2x a week and 15 minutes each time.

Email is possible to deployed locations as well. The military

member will need to contact their families with that address.

Regular mail is an unsung hero for both the deployed person and the family at home. The community constantly asks for addresses for military deployed personnel to send packages and letters. If a member wants stuff from the community, they need to let Family Support know we can release their deployed address. Otherwise personal

Family Support has writing kits for deployed personnel to use when writing their children ages 12 and under. Stop by and get one when

## CHANGES IN THE FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICE

In case you haven't been by or haven't noticed, the Family Support Office has a new look. This change in furniture arrangement is designed to create more comfort, a more accessible and safe play area for children, and more privacy for our customers. We hope it pleases you as much as it has pleased us.

Three other changes in Family Support are reflective of the technician staff. As of 1 Jan, Donika Hickman pinned on the rank of TSgt. As of 1 Jan, TSgt Perry Foos assumed the role of NCOIC of Family Support and will be pinning on the rank of MSgt in the very near future. SSgt Marcy Yerkey has recently shared that she is expecting a baby.

We are all thrilled about all the news and hope you stop by to congratulate our technicians!



*From Left Center: MSgt Tom Ruskin, TSgt and Mrs Foos, Ms Elizabeth Foos, Ms Laine Davis, Capt Davis (PA), Ms Randi Stephens, Ms Katie Barnes, and Ms Janice Barnes enjoy the recent YARS Military Ball.*

## Family Support Office

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Vienna OH 44473

Bldg 128, Rm 103

Phone: 330-609-1201

Fax: 330-609-1511

E-mail: [family.support@youngstown.af.mil](mailto:family.support@youngstown.af.mil)

American Red Cross: 877-272-7337



*More Holiday Cheer in the desert thanks to the generosity of local community and base personnel.*

*Thanks Again!*

**We're On the Web!!**

<http://www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil/units/910thfamilysupportcenter/index.asp>

READINESS IS OUR

# A Happy and Healthy New Year to You and Yours!

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION VIA AMERICAN RED CROSS: A FAMILY PRIMER

In the event a family emergency occurs while your loved one is TDY, you can easily send a Red Cross message of notification or requesting a return home of the member.

### **Of special note:**

Mission requirements drive whether or not the commander at the TDY location can release an military member to go home. Initiating travel home commercially, without deployed command approval is never authorized.

### **The prescribed process:**

Emergency notifications **MUST** be made to the *Red Cross Office in the location of the emergency*. Contact from family directly to the member

does not constitute official notification.

The Red Cross can be reached by calling **877-272-7337** from a land line phone (this will rotate the call to the nearest Red Cross Office)

You must have basic information about the member: full name, rank, TDY location, home unit name and location, and, if possible, a phone number at TDY location. The emergency must be verified by the Red Cross, so having the contact number/name of verifying official is important. If it is a medically related emergency, you should notify the verifying official that they are authorized

to release the information to the American Red Cross. Be sure to request the case number.

### **Once the message is received:**

The deployed location commander will determine if emergency leave is authorized. The deployed unit and PERSCO will assist in getting travel back to home.

The military member needs to notify their home unit (ie. YARS) and the PERSCO team, so a call to the unit with the information is a good thing for family members to do.

### **Once returned home:**

The military member is on leave status and must coordi-

nate their leave with the chain of command as the situation progresses.

*If you require additional information about this process, please contact the 910 MPF Personnel Readiness Office (DSN 346-1385)*

*The Family Support Office (330-609-1201 or emergency, 330-233-2128) is available to help with understanding the process of accomplishing the notification and/or any family assistance requested.*

